

Proclamation 5557 of October 22, 1986

A Time of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

International terrorism has taken the lives of thousands of people around the world and continues to claim lives. It is most fitting that we set aside a time of remembrance for the victims of terrorism.

The United States has taken positive steps to stop the onslaught of terrorism against civilized society. We will continue to do so, because we keep in mind the value and dignity of every human being and the commission that Thomas Jefferson expressed so well when he wrote, "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government."

The United States has a clear policy of combatting terrorism and of refusing to make concessions to terrorists. We have sought cooperation with all nations, on both a bilateral and a multilateral basis, to fight terrorism. We have put those who would instigate acts of terrorism against U.S. citizens or property on notice that we will vigorously confront this criminal behavior in every way—diplomatically, economically, legally, and, when necessary, militarily. We have demonstrated our resolve.

At this time of remembrance, we also reiterate our determination to secure the release of all Americans being held hostage abroad and our sympathy and understanding for their families.

We observe our time of remembrance for victims of terrorism on October 23. That is the third anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the United States compound in Beirut, Lebanon, in which 241 American servicemen, defenders of freedom and peace, lost their lives. As we mourn these men and all other victims of terrorism, as we honor them, and as we offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of victims, let us remind the world that our reflection and remembrance fortify our determination to deter and defeat terrorism.

The Congress, by Public Law 99-403, has designated October 23, 1986, as "A Time of Remembrance" for all victims of terrorism throughout the world and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 23, 1986, as a Time of Remembrance for all victims of terrorism throughout the world, and I urge all Americans to actively participate by flying the American flag at half staff on that day, as a symbol of patriotism, dignity, loyalty, and courage.

Accordingly, I call upon and authorize all departments and agencies of the United States and interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly United States flags at half staff on October 23 in memory of the victims and in the hope that the desire for genuine peace and freedom will take firm root in every person and nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eleventh.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5558 of October 22, 1986

United Nations Day, 1986

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

United Nations Day is an occasion to reaffirm our devotion to the principles of the United Nations Charter and to celebrate mankind's progress toward the kind of world the framers of that Charter longed for and planned for in the aftermath of the Second World War. That world is one founded upon universal and reciprocal respect for human rights and the peaceful resolution of differences.

When we reflect on the record of the world's governments in this twentieth century in bringing to fruition mankind's dreams of peace, human rights, freedom, and justice, we can only conclude that much remains to be done. Our century has witnessed the rise of totalitarian systems, the two world wars, mass annihilations, incessant local and regional conflicts, and systematic violations of human rights. Mankind clearly stands in need of help in learning to live in peace and cooperation.

This is the kind of help that the ideals and institutions of the United Nations offer. But we must also help ourselves, and we can continue to do so by resolving to live up to the ideals of the U.N. Charter. The United Nations today faces a crisis of cash and credibility. The opportunity exists, during the 41st General Assembly, for the member states to consider and adopt a program of reforms; strengthen the U.N.'s ability to reach and help humanity, particularly the poorest and most defenseless; and reinforce the U.N.'s mission to keep the peace and promote human rights. If all the members of this universal organization decide to seize the moment and turn the rhetoric of reform into reality, the future of the United Nations will be secure.

We have a better world today because of the United Nations and its various international organizations, such as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)—now celebrating its 40th anniversary of serving the world's children through eradicating disease, lowering the rate of infant mortality, and focusing the world's attention on children in need. We will have a better world tomorrow the more we remain faithful to the vision and the promise of the Charter framed in San Francisco 41 years ago.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, October 24, 1986, as United Nations Day, and I urge all Americans to acquaint themselves with the activities and accomplishments of the United Nations. I have appointed